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RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2860
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA PRIORITY 0044
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 9040
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 4887
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RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 000767

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/12/2018

TAGS: PREL UNMIK UN KV PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN STILL CONSIDERING RECOGNITION OF KOSOVO
INDEPENDENCE

REF: A. STATE 16319
 1B. ISLAMABAD 654
 1C. STATE 13716

Classified By: Political Counselor Candace Putnam, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

11. (C) In a February 20 meeting with Mirza Afzal Mahmood, MFA Director of the European Division, PolOff drew on Ref A points to explain the U.S. decision to recognize Kosovo as an independent state. PolOff asked if Pakistan was considering recognizing Kosovo's independence, noting the MFA had released a public statement February 19 stating Pakistan understood and supported the legitimate aspirations of the Kosovars. Mahmood confirmed Pakistan was sympathetic to Kosovo on this issue and has taken noted of the OIC's support, as well as that of other Muslim countries, but wants more time to consult before taking an official decision. Mahmood observed that the situation of Kosovo was similar to that of Kashmir, and said, in principle, Pakistan felt such regions had a right to self-determination.

PATTERSON